We share this piece to commemorate the revolutionary leader Malcolm X who was assassinated 60 years ago on Feb. 21, 1965.

February 2025

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Malcolm X had global view of struggle

By Gloria Verdieu and John Parker

Feb. 21, 2025, marks the 60th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X (El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz). Malcolm was killed just two months before his 40th birthday while speaking at an Organization of African American Unity indoor rally at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan. His pregnant wife and four children witnessed his murder.

The mosque where Malcolm spoke, Temple #7, was firebombed after Malcolm's murder. Malcolm's supporters had a difficult time finding a venue for his memorial service due to the threat of violence. The Faith Temple Church of God in Christ agreed to conduct the funeral service. Between 20,000 to 30,000 people waited in line to pay their respects to Malcolm X as his body lay in state at the Unity Funeral Home in Harlem.

Malcolm X and Fidel Castro met in 1960 at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

Ossie Davis' eulogy

Betty Shabazz chose Ossie Davis to give the eulogy. Despite the damage that it may cause his mainstream acting career, Davis agreed. His eulogy delivered on Saturday morning, Feb. 27, 1965, would be among the most memorable words he ever wrote.

A quote from Davis' eulogy states "There are those who will consider it their duty, as friends of the Negro people to tell us to revile him, to flee, even from the presence of his memory, to save ourselves by writing him out of the history."

Honoring Malcolm X by commemorating his death serves as a reminder of his lasting impact on social justice, racial equality, and human rights movements.

FBI and COINTELPRO

The assassination had signs of involvement by the FBI, which targeted for assassination members of the Black Panther Party, like Fred Hampton in Chicago. Cointelpro began the special attention of harassment and threats against Black liberation leaders in the U.S. in 1956. Those threats included other collaborations that were directly or indirectly responsible for the death of other Civil Rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr.

The text of the OAAU Basic Unity program, read and approved by Malcolm X, is printed in the appendix of Malcolm X: The Final Speeches.

In the preface to the book Malcolm Talks to Young People, Steven Clark states that "Malcolm seized every occasion to talk to young people. All over the world, it is young people [quoting Malcolm X] 'who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation.'"

Malcolm said, "One of the first things I think young people … should learn how to do; see for yourself, listen for yourself, and think for yourself. Then you come to an intelligent decision for yourself."

We are seeing today another genocidal threat from the Department of Justice targeting Black and Brown and Palestinian people in the U.S., with Trump increasing the already heinous violations of human rights by the Democratic Party.

However, young Latine people are now in the streets almost daily, not backing away from Trump's threat of massive raids.

LA Times reported on Feb. 10 about a leaked memo by the State Department of a "large scale" immigration raid that is expected to happen in Los Angeles by the end of February.

ICE raids and resistance

ICE agents began targeting major sanctuary cities immediately after Trump's inauguration – the same day, including LA, Chicago, and Atlanta. The following day, Trump lifted well-established guidelines that restricted ICE from operating at "sensitive locations" such as schools, churches or hospitals.

Sixty organizations in LA united

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What Malcolm X

Colby Byrd

Malcolm X means an unshakable Brotherhood made in Blood. He means Uncompromising Resistance. He means Revolution … violent and untameable. Finally, Malcolm X means Liberation by any means Necessary.

All these principles build on each other. As one discovers their fellow Blood Brothers, they begin to help them and fight for them. As the fighting continues, it reaches a point of no return where there is no longer just a fight to stay afloat, to stay alive, but now an uncontrollable brawl. A complete and total struggle to rid your Blood Brothers of whatever is afflicting them. And this struggle is fought until total victory.

Malcolm X reminds us that our fight is one for human rights, not civil rights. We are fighting for our equality as human beings, not as citizens of the U.S. We are fighting to end the exploitation of us all worldwide. We are fighting to destroy this hypocritical "democracy" for the rich and kill the bloodsucker known as Capitalism.

He respected the fight. He analyzed what the revolution would look like and never once shied away from explaining how a mutually bloody fight was coming. He openly endorsed armed resistance to occupation and oppression. Whether it be Police in Harlem or Paratroopers in Vietnam, he understood that occupation is a tool of war used by the ruling class on all those below.

His words from 1964 and '65 hold the same weight and relay the same relevant warnings here in 2025. The casbahs of Algiers back then are the refugee camps of Palestine today. The tactics used by French Paratroopers and Harlem police are now the tactics of the Zionist state of Israel and any city Police department. The game played on Black people of this nation back in 1964 continues to be played on us now. Forced to vote to "save" the nation, while no matter the outcome, getting left behind. His warnings against following the leadership that, although may be preaching for change and progress, they are ultimately tools of compromise that are backed by and rooted within the systems of oppression. His times' Mau-Mau are our Al-Qassam.

In 2025, who are my blood brothers? Who are the people that have struggled as I have struggled? The list is almost never-ending, and that is the point. My Blood Brothers are the victims of racism, of homophobia, of misogyny. They are those fighting against Western Imperialism in defense of their homes and ways of life. My blood Brothers are the victims of natural disasters here, left abandoned by their government, the many people snatched up by today's slave catchers, Queer people fighting to not be erased from society, and women fighting for bodily autonomy. My blood brothers are the Palestinian Resistance overseas and everyone of the Global South.

This family must learn how to support one another and how to fight off each other's enemies. This family must always step together, where one blood brother goes we all go. When one is humiliated, we all are, and when one fights back, we all fight back.

Colby Byrd is a young union member and organizer with the People's Power Assembly and Struggle for Socialism. Byrd organized support for Baltimore Sanitation workers.

Malcolm X had global view of struggle

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in response: The press conference held in LA on Feb. 12 – launching now one of the largest Immigrant and Migrant solidarity organizations – had the greatest participation of leading youth who were making their own way, while respecting history's lessons and older activists and leaders who led the historic 2006 demonstrations on May 1. Indeed, the youth heeded Malcolm's words.

In Malcolm's 1964 speech, "Ballot OR The Bullet" he explained the difference between civil rights and human rights. Civil rights mean you're asking Uncle Sam to treat you right. Human rights are something you were born with. Human rights are your God-given rights. Human rights are the rights that are recognized by all nations of this earth. Any time anyone violates their human rights, you can take them to the World Court. Malcolm spoke of the need to expand the civil rights struggle to a higher level – to the level of human rights.

Malcolm would have today seen the immigrant struggle as part of the broader struggle for human rights.

International solidarity

Malcolm saw that solidarity with the international victims of U.S. and Western imperialism empowers those struggling here, especially in terms of Black and Brown unity and solidarity with the Global South.

On Sept. 19, 1960, 35-year-old Nation of Islam member Malcolm and 34-year-old Cuban Head of State Fidel Castro had a historic meeting of the minds on the ninth floor of the Black-owned Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

Malcolm once said that you can't understand what is going on in Mississippi if you don't know what is going on in the Congo.

Malcolm X condemned the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in January of 1961. He believed the U.S. government arranged Lu-

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JoyB

MALCOLM X to me represents the "good" in adversity. The "loud" in alarm. Mr. X ...The scholar – the Minister & man of great tragedy. To me X was Unafraid – always ready to battle – not necessarily with a gun but always with the mind.

Born in Nebraska in 1925 – my dedication to this giant will never die. Fiery, eloquent and spokesman for an entire nation of MEN & women too.

X was leader – Black Nationalist too – if alive he would tell you all yes it's true. X was a force – who challenged Dr. King. Intellectual – Influencer & Intuitive too.

Malcolm X was my hero – then and still is now. With Flavor Orange in the White House – X would say *how*? Mentored by Elijah & sanctioned to Prison – Likely X would say things happening now would require immediate revision.

Malcolm X changed the racial climate back in the day. For me – Malcolm's legacy will always remain constant and true to the game. I love his stance on Education – which he always maintained. Complex – who could figure Malcolm out? The Minister – The Man all clothed in power. To me & many more X is such a tower.

Let's talk more about Malcolm X – we could talk all day. Imagine being void of education – X would have an issue with that. Malcolm! Malcolm! I wish you could speak! That's nothing but FACT.

X was gallant – to me – tall as a Tree. Taking great pride in his culture – all he wanted was for Black people to live free. Malcolm the Warrior – Hustler and King ... alleged Con Man & Little with a DREAM! Malcolm X counted & courted defeat. Always on the move – forever in the streets.

He spoke of heartbreak in the fondest of terms. His was a mixture of both LIFE's twists and turns. The truth about "X" is that he was a King ... Like Martin Luther, he too had a dream. Malcolm X represents the word Bravery to me – how else did he live in a Foster Home & never tried to flee? I'd love to see Malcolm X alive and well – oh what stories he would sit and tell. Malcolm X would likely say we need to prepare for tomorrow and that would be true – he would insist that we snatch the future "he'd say – it's there waiting on you."

What does Malcolm X mean to me – X means hope and pride. An entire people representing an individual man – to me X typifies advancement & truth for all races. Again if he were alive – he'd take us through the paces. X wasn't afraid to speak truth to power – I love that – he wasn't one to cower.

Troubled & Tried ... Malcolm X stayed for the ride. What's the name of the movie ... "Get on Bus" ... I wish he could have taken all of us.

With X – civil rights became human rights. There are so many things about Malcolm – again we could talk all day. We could talk about his many achievements & by "any means necessary" mantra.

Every "L" was a small seed of its own (in the words of the Great Malcolm X) losses & lessons to be used as Courses in Improvement. Malcolm great in stature – well versed in the ways of Islam. I pay both honor and homage to this man because he was bold enough to admit that Black people needed to come to together against the "Common Enemy."

Malcolm X was accused of dealing in hate. I loudly proclaim this is a falsehood. This man spoke about oppression & exploitation. He forced us to take an intricate look at our own hatred – self-hatred – hatred of our own kind.

This question by Malcolm took me all the way in – at what we would eventually refer to as "rallies" – X put forth "Noooooo – before you come asking Mr. Mohammed does he teach hate – you should ask yourself who taught you to hate being what GOD gave you."

Finally, I deem Malcolm X an icon – that was then and this is now!

JoyB is a community organizer with the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly and Struggle for Socialism. She helped found the Prisoners Solidarity Committee.

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mumba's murder to protect investments and profits in the Congo.

He understood the importance of international solidarity, especially with Africa and Latin America and Asia. And after his trip in April 1964 to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, performing the Hajj – he declared that unity of the oppressed nationalities was essential. After seeing the people he shared that trip to Mecca with, he began to think that "race" and ethnicity were not the determinants of friends, allies or comrades in the struggle against oppression and imperialism.

From Malcolm's letter on his trip to Mecca:

> "There were tens of thousands of pilgrims, from all over the world. They were of all colors, from blue-eyed blonds to black skin Africans. But we were all participating in the same rituals, displaying a spirit of unity and brotherhood that my experiences in America had led me to believe never could exist between the white and non-white. America needs to understand Islam, because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. ..."
>
> – "The Autobiography of Malcolm X"

In September of 1964, he visited a Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza and witnessed firsthand the displacement and suffering caused by the 1948 Nakba. This visit was significant because it reflected Malcolm X's growing international perspective and his commitment to linking the fight against racial oppression in the U.S. with anti-colonial and liberation movements worldwide. He spoke out against Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, calling it unjust and unsustainable. He condemned the annexation of Jerusalem and other Palestinian lands, emphasizing the importance of human rights for all, including Palestinians.

Malcolm X was no friend of capitalism and his hatred of the system grew into an understanding that, as long as it existed, oppression and division would thrive.

" You can't have capitalism without racism. And if you find a person without racism, usually they're socialists or their political philosophy is socialism."

What Malcolm X means to me

Apryle Everly

Malcolm X, to me, embodies one of the many great examples of what it means to be a communist. Malcolm would not have always considered himself a communist earlier on in his life. His own considerations, as many know, were far more religious in nature, with Black power at its center. After being forced out of the Nation of Islam for pointing out precisely how the struggles of all Black people across the world are interconnected and for voicing his principled opposition to American imperialism, he solidified his communist turning point.

In some twisted sense of irony, Henry Kissinger said it best, "Disciplined communists see everything in relation to the class struggle." Malcolm's view on the crisis facing Black Americans was initially that Black people needed separate services, communities, education, health care, etc. to uplift poor Black communities. As Malcolm saw that not all the needs of Black people were being met through the measures taken by the Nation of Islam, he began the journey of joining class struggle politics with Black Power.

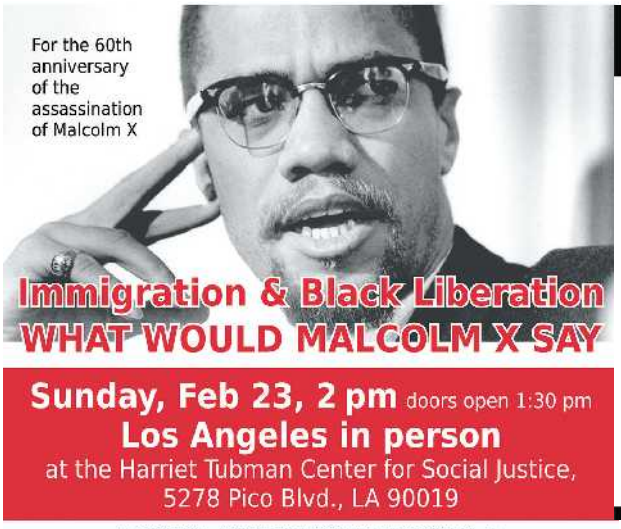
Malcolm understood that class and race intersect in such a way that the material change needed to bring millions of Black Americans out of poverty would never come to fruition simply by banding together to create exclusively Black services. Rather, an overhaul of the current power structure would have to occur. That means overthrowing the ruling class – the capitalists, those who own the means of production. This was true in Malcolm's time, and it is still true in our own.

As we all understand, the ruling class knows no specific skin color or nationality. Malcolm put it best when he said:

> "It doesn't mean that we're anti-white, but it does mean we're anti-exploitation, we're anti-degradation, we're anti-oppression."

Being against these very actions goes to the heart of the problem because if we own nothing, then the very goal of extinguishing poverty becomes infinitely harder to accomplish. From my perspective, communities organizing together and pooling resources is more of the beginning step in the larger revolution, not the ultimate goal. Joining this concept with the reality that many African nations were simultaneously undergoing their own independence movements, he understood that tactics at home had to change. It is at the crux of this understanding that explains what a communist aims to do: provide material changes for their community.

Lastly, I want to add that Malcolm showed great wisdom. For the movement today, I want us all to embrace the ability to reflect on current methods that we utilize to organize and continue to learn from others who are in the movement with us. Malcolm was in community with many revolutionaries around the world, many of whom gave him ideas for some of the speeches and actions he was involved in. I wish for the communist movement in the U.S. to continue to change tactics when the old ones no longer serve their intended purpose. I think Malcolm's life shows us that tactile change is one of the most disciplined decisions we, as revolutionaries, can make. #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Immigration & Black Liberation
WHAT WOULD MALCOLM X SAY
Sunday, Feb 23, 2 pm doors open 1:30 pm
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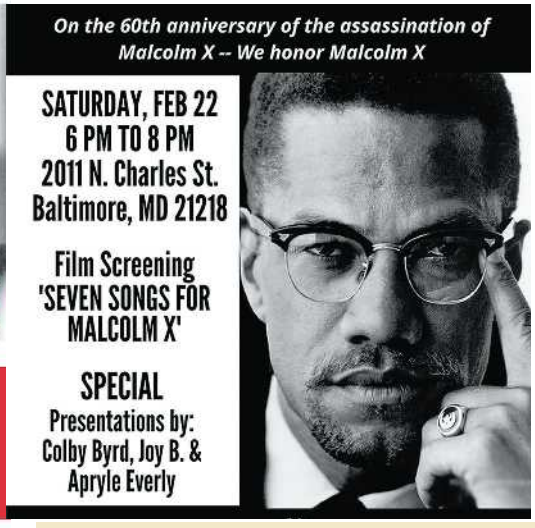
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Film Screening
'SEVEN SONGS FOR MALCOLM X'
SPECIAL
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